

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

Claims 3-4, 6, 11-20 and 22 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

Claims 4, 6, 11, 12, and 22 stand allowed.

Non-elected claim 3 and its dependent claims 13-20, all of which now depend on allowed claim 6, remain pending in the instant application for rejoinder and consideration upon allowance of claim 6.¹

Applicants respectfully submit that the change in dependency of claims 3 and 13-20, which are directed to the non-elected species of Fig. 10, is proper and does not introduce new matter, because allowable claim 6 is a linking claim that is readable not only on the elected species of Fig. 4, but also on the non-elected species of Fig. 10. Note, for example, the overall resemblances between Figs. 4 and 10 which are different mostly in the configuration of the foamed material, i.e., block in Fig. 4 and chips in Fig. 10. Allowed claim 6 does not require the foamed material to include a block or multiple chips, and is therefore readable on both Figs. 4 and 10.

Rejoinder, consideration and allowance of claims 3 and 13-20 in view of the above and the indicated allowance of claim 6 are believed appropriate and therefore respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all claims in the present application are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

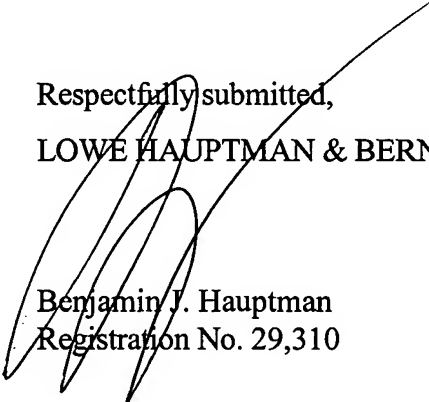
¹ [A] requirement for restriction should be withdrawn when a generic claim, linking claim, or subcombination claim is allowable and any previously withdrawn claim depends from or otherwise requires all the limitations thereof. Claims that require all the limitations of an allowable claim will be rejoined and fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. *MPEP*, section 821.04(a) (emphasis added).

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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